

Docket No. 06-181

ORIGINAL

FILED/ACCEPTED

Hamlett-West_MD_Important subject concerning FCC and Closed Captions
From: DAVID WEST [dandgwest@msn.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2006 3:52 PM
To: Monica Desai
Subject: Important subject concerning FCC and Closed Captions

OCT 19 2006

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear Commissioner Monica,

I want you to know it is very frustrating to watch TV programs, movies, etc., with out closed captions because I am Hearing Impaired and have been since birth. I am very upset that FCC is granting some programs, movies, etc., excuses not to have to use closed captions. I rely on closed captions to better understand programs, movies, etc. The world has known for years and years that there are Hearing Impaired, Deaf, and Hard of Hearing people that are among them and we have fought for so long for accommodations to fit in the world and yet we keep being pushed aside by ignorant ones who do not understand what it is like to struggle in a world where we are treated as we don't exist. Please, I am asking you to not ignore but to help us because after all we are human beings too. Becoming Hearing Impaired, Deaf or Hard of hearing can happen to you or your loved ones anytime especially as you reach old age. Just think about it, if you or your loved ones lost your hearing, wouldn't it be nice to have closed captioning on every programs, movies, etc? Here is a thought... buy some ear plugs, go home, sit down in front of the TV with the ear plugs in and find a program, or movie or etc.. that does not have closed captions and think how it feels to not be able to understand. Thank you for your time and concerns.

Sincerely,
Gwinette E. Hamlett-West

Pam Gregory

Docket No. 06-181

From: George Hamilton [George.Hamilton@comcast.net]
Sent: Saturday, September 30, 2006 11:52 PM
To: Monica Desai
Subject: Re: DA 06-1802, CGB-CC-0005 and CGB-CC-0007

FILED/ACCEPTED

OCT 19 2006

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

September 30, 2006

FCC Chief, Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau Monica Desai

Dear Monica Desai,

I protest the FCC approval of almost 300 requests for new programs to be shown without closed captions.

The FCC weakened the closed captioning rules, and appears to have created new standards and new rules for permitting programs to be televised without closed captions. I believe the FCC violated the closed captioning rules.

People who are deaf or hard of hearing want access to televised information and entertainment, just like everyone else.

Closed captioning is an essential part of any televised program. Captioning is not too difficult or too expensive.

I cannot watch television programs that are not captioned.

Please reconsider these FCC decisions and support closed captioning.

Sincerely,

George Hamilton
1202 Rustic Cir SE
Southeast
Huntsville, AL 35802-4014

Pam Gregory

Docket No. 06-181

From: Be4tt0y@comcast.net

Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2006 10:26 AM

To: Kevin.govMartin@fcc.gov; Deborah Tate; Robert McDowell; Michael Copps; Jonathan Adelstein; Monica Desai

FILED/ACCEPTED

Subject: Closed Captioning

OCT 19 2006

In Re DA 06-1802, CGB-CC-0005 and CGB-CC-0007

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear FCC Chairman,

As a senior citizen with hearing problems and on a fixed income, I protest the recent Orders granting exemptions from closed captioning issued by CGB. These Orders appear to create a new regulation, carving out a new exemption basis, not in keeping with current regulations. I am outraged and beleive the FCC has created a loophole that almost any entity crying "it costs too much" can use. Please reconsider immediately! I need my closed captioning!

Betty Heath
713 N Sunset Dr
Independence, Mo 64050

10/11/2006

Pam Gregory

Docket No. 06-181

FILED/ACCEPTED

OCT 19 2006

From: Signinglaurie@aol.com

Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2006 4:47 PM

To: Robert McDowell; Deborah Tate; Michael Copps; Jonathan Adelstein; Monica Desai; Kevin Martin

Subject: We need our closed captioning!

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear FCC Chairman,

I protest the recent Orders granting exemptions from closed captioning issued by CGB. These Orders appear to create a new regulation, carving out a new exemption basis, not in keeping with current regulations. We are outraged and believe the FCC has created a loophole that almost any entity crying "it costs too much" can now use. Please reconsider immediately! We need our closed captioning!

We have come so far, for the deaf community and now were supposed to take two steps back. That is not fare! *Equal rights* Isn't that for everyone???

Laurie Harbin
West Palm Beach, FL

10/11/2006

Docket No. 06-181

Pam Gregory

From: Margo Hunt [snowball02h@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2006 10:02 AM
To: Monica Desai
Subject: Re DA 06-1802, CGB-CC-0005 and CGB-CC-0007
In Re DA 06-1802, CGB-CC-0005 and CGB-CC-0007

FILED/ACCEPTED**OCT 19 2006**Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

In reading the emergency alert information from the Hearing Loss Association of America (formerly known as the Self Help for the Hard of Hearing) that FCC is granting exemptions from closed captioning I became very upset.

I started losing my hearing as a senior in high school and am now trying to determine whether I meet the criteria for a cochlear implant. Both my husband and I need assistance in understanding not just the normal television shows, but the news, the emergency announcements, the airplane steward, etc.

These Orders appear to create a new regulation, carving out a new exemption basis, not in keeping with current regulations. When advertisers pay extraordinary fees for 20 second ads during major sport shows, when there are approximately 18 minutes of commercials for every 60 minute TV show, the television agencies have the money to ensure that their shows and news events are closed captioned and the cable companies should be forced to emit closed captioning information when it is transmitted to them.

I can't believe that the FCC is so blind sighted by this industry and that the American public has to keep fighting these battles. You have created a loophole that almost any entity crying "it costs too much" can now use. Please reconsider immediately! Also because my cable company has started increasing the decibels on all advertisements, I am being forced to mute the TV and read what is being said.

Dr. Margo E Hunt
516 Lawson Way
Rockville, MD 20850

How low will we go? Check out Yahoo! Messenger's low PC-to-Phone call rates.

10/11/2006

Docket No. 06-181

FILED/ACCEPTED

OCT 19 2006

RE: DA 06-180, CGB-CC-0005, CGB-CC-0007

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

I strongly protest your recent orders granting exemptions from closed captioning issued by CGB. These orders appear to create a new regulation, carving out a new exemption basis, not in keeping with current regulations. It is unbelievable that you have allowed a loophole for an entity such as this.

I have been hard of hearing all of my life. I have struggled to understand speech. I was elated when captioning became available. Many times I do not grasp all the sounds of a word and rely on lip reading, assistive devices and captioning to clearly understand. It is not possible to lip read videos or movies.

This exemption action outrages me. Any entity, worth their merit, who feels they have a message to express, be it religious, music, emergency announcements or warnings and otherwise, should be concerned that all may hear and understand clearly. If the message is significant enough to be produced, then by all means the **entity should be mindful enough to use resources to be sure the message can be clearly understood.**

Please rescind this action immediately. There are 31.5 millions persons here in the United States who struggle with hearing loss. Should these people be left out of the communication loop? Don't be responsible for excluding us! We need our closed captioning!

Sincerely,

Janice E. Hedman
30584 County Road 150
Nappanee, IN 46550
574-773-2822
jehedman@bnin.net

Pam Gregory

Docket No. 06-181

From: thomas.hertneky@pnc.com
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2006 10:00 PM
To: Kevin Martin
Cc: Deborah Tate; Robert McDowell; Michael Copps; Jonathan Adelstein; Monica Desai
Subject: In Re DA 06-1802, CGB-CC-0005 and CGB-CC-0007

FILED/ACCEPTED

OCT 19 2006

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear FCC Chairman,
My son is profoundly deaf.

This means he can hear almost nothing.

The important thing to know is that he is not capable and never will be capable of understanding human speech. He relies on captioning to connect with our world. Our family is greatly distressed that the referenced decision has created a loophole that exempts entities from captioning. Please reconsider this decision. Personally for my son, but for all of the hard of hearing and deaf children and adults that depend on this life altering access - captioning.

Tom Hertneky
825 Fredericka Drive
Bethel Park, PA 15102-3736

Tom Hertneky
Database Administrator
PNC Financial Services Group
TPS/ITS/Database Technologies Group
Phone: 412-768-9169
Pager: 412-590-2529
4125902529@archwireless.net
Email: thomas.hertneky@pncbank.com

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Pam Gregory

Docket No. 06-181

FILED/ACCEPTED**From:** meriah [meriahh@gmail.com]

OCT 19 2006

Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2006 8:03 PM**To:** Deborah Tate; Robert McDowell; Michael Copps; Jonathan Adelstein; Monica DesaiFederal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary**Subject:** re: DA 06-1802, CGB-CC-0005 and CGB-CC-0007

Dear Commisioners,

I am appalled by the recent decision regarding closed captioning, as issued by cbg. I protest these recent Orders granting exemptions from closed captioning as these Orders appear to create a new regulation, carving out a new exemption basis, not in keeping with current regulations.

Closed captioning is not merely a necessity for the deaf and hearing impaired; it is essential for non-native English speakers, and furthermore, is a tool in reading development. Why is it that many Asian countries (Taiwan and Japan come to mind) require this, and realize that it makes perfect sense, and the US cannot? Why must we consistently fall behind in any and all advancements, including closed captioning?

Take a stand that means something: reverse your decision. You will thank yourself when you have gone deaf...

meriah hudson
2639 e. 9th street studio 7
oakland, ca, 94601

10/11/2006

Kenneth L. Hill

Docket No. 06-181

FILED/ACCEPTED

OCT 19 2006

From: Brad Hughes [bradj96@earthlink.net]**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2006 4:15 PM**To:** Kevin Martin**Cc:** Deborah Tate; Robert McDowell; Michael Copps; Jonathan Adelstein; Monica Desai**Subject:** Closed CaptioningFederal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear FCC Chairman and Commissioners,

I protest the recent orders granting exemptions from closed captioning issued by CGB. These orders appear to create a new regulation, carving out a new exemption basis, not in keeping with current regulations. We are outraged and believe the FCC has created a loophole that almost any entity crying "it costs too much" can now use. Please reconsider immediately! We need our closed captioning!

Jennifer Hughes
636 Broyles Avenue
Erwin, TN. 37650

Brad Hughes
bradj96@earthlink.net
EarthLink Revolves Around You.

9/26/2006

Docket No. 06-181

Kenneth L. Hill

FILED/ACCEPTED

From: Chris Haggerty [haggerty@ntelos.net]

OCT 19 2006

Sent: Monday, September 25, 2006 7:28 PMFederal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary**To:** Kevin Martin**Cc:** Deborah Tate; Robert McDowell; Michael Copps; Jonathan Adelstein; Monica Desai**Subject:** No exemptions to captioning regulations

Dear FCC Chairman Martin:

I protest the recent Orders granting exemptions from closed captioning issued by CGB. These Orders appear to create a new regulation, carving out a new exemption basis, not in keeping with current regulations. We are outraged and believe the FCC has created a loophole that almost any entity crying "it costs too much" can now use. Please reconsider immediately!

Without captioning I missed sufficient dialog in most programs to not make them worth watching. With captioning, I can even watch and follow Spanish language programs, understanding what is taking place. It is real important to me that if I want to watch a program, that captioning exists. Please no exceptions. We need our closed captioning!

Sincerely,

Christopher Haggerty
1844 Wayland Dr
Winchester, VA 22601
haggerty@ntelos.net

9/26/2006

Docket No. 06-181

FILED/ACCEPTED

Kenneth L. Hill

OCT 19 2006

From: Wendy House [whill7house@verizon.net]**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2006 11:40 PM**To:** Kevin Martin; Michael Copps; Jonathan Adelstein; Deborah Tate; Robert McDowell**Cc:** Monica Desai; Jay Keithley; Tom.Chandler@fcc.gov; Cheryl King; info@tdi-online.org; rep.cardin@mail.house.gov**Subject:** Closed Captioning WaiverFederal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
 Michael J. Copps, Commissioner
 Jonathan S. Adelstein, Commissioner
 Deborah Taylor Tate, Commissioner
 Robert M. McDowell, Commissioner

Dear Commissioners,

This is to let you know that I fully support the action alerts from TDI And other national organizations to oppose the decisions taken by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on September 12, 2006. We Respectfully ask that the FCC reverse its September 12, 2006 decisions Regarding television captioning waivers.

Being deaf since birth and not knowing sign language, my reading and vocabulary were very low. Until I entered in high school when I was sixteen years old, I entered deaf and hard of hearing resource room and learned about closed captioned from my deaf friends. I am so grateful for the introduction of closed caption because my vocabulary and reading skills have improved significantly. While watching TV, I was able to follow through programs without having to rely or ask my family members to tell me what actors, actresses, reporters, or comedians were saying. If not for closed captioning shows, it could lead frustrations and anger among my family. I truly care a great deal about my family and want to maintain our relationships stronger than resentful towards me.

On Sundays, I would often watch Joel Osteen, The Hourly (father and son's show in California), and many more, including Billy Graham and his son whenever they are in the evenings to spread the gospel. Like I mentioned early above my reading was bad that included understanding and memorizing King James Version which was not my strong suit. Until I learned sign language and at the same time watch religion shows to increase my comprehension and vocabulary. Now, I can give back to the deaf and hard of hearing community to educate them of the need to read to improve their writing, comprehension, and vocabulary.

Churches make up a very important part of every community. It is within Their mission to support the basic needs of all people within their Reach. When Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast one year ago, they Were among the first to offer help with shelter, food, and other Assistance to the survivors. Captioning TV programs does meet a Legitimate basic need for access to information just like building a Ramp to the church door. By providing captions to meet the needs of a Significant population group, the churches will find

10/4/2006

themselves with an Expanded TV viewership, which will lead to an increase in their Membership and other support from the community. When children and Adults are able to read captions on spiritual programs, they are Influenced to live up to high moral standards and contribute their part To the community. Hearing loss is the number one growing disability Among senior citizens – they will find themselves depending on Captioning to listen to the message.

We want to participate fully in all programs and services at our local Church because it serves as a vital resource that empowers us to be Fully integrated in the community. If one of us who are deaf or hard of Hearing sees the services with captions on TV, we can interact with Other church members, neighbors, fellow employees, family members, and Service professionals in the local community. We stand to benefit from The "local connection" that national religious programs are unable to Provide.

We know that all video programmers have had ten years to prepare for the Captioning regulations now in place, and temporary waivers when Appropriate. When you give full permanent exemptions to the two Programmers, it reverses all the access we have worked on for years. We Ask that programmers consider other possible revenue options such as Sponsorships, long-term captioning service agreements, and aftermarket Sales (videotapes or DVDs) to cover and minimize the cost of captioning. Or, they can reduce other expenses in their production budgets to enable The provision of captioning.

Closed captioning gives me a) access to news that is indispensable to The community, b) entertainment that is an integral part of our lives, And c) education that paves the way for us to become self-sufficient in Society. The information that everyone in the community receives is also Important to me and I can only get it if it is captioned.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Wendy Hill-House
2110 Hallmark Drive
Gambrills, MD 21054
whill7house@verizon.net

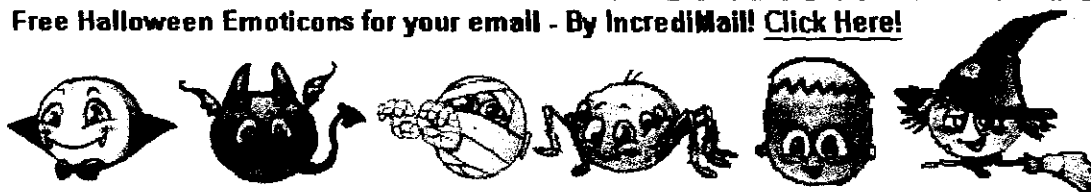
Cc:

Monica Desai, Chief, Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau
Jay Keithley, Deputy Chief (Policy), Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau
Tom Chandler, Chief, Disability Rights Office
Cheryl King, Deputy Chief, Disability Rights Office

Barbara A. Mikulski, US Senator (Maryland)
Paul S. Sarbanes, US Senator (Maryland)
Benjamin L. Cardin, US Congressman of Maryland

10/4/2006

Free Halloween Emoticons for your email - By IncrediMail! [Click Here!](#)



Docket No 06-181

Kenneth L. Hill

From: Derek Hodgson [DMHodgson9@msn.com]
Sent: Friday, September 22, 2006 4:52 PM
To: Monica Desai
Subject: Re: DA 06-1802, CGB-CC-0005 and CGB-CC-0007

FILED/ACCEPTED

OCT 19 2006

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

September 22, 2006
FCC Chief, Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau Monica Desai

Dear Monica Desai,

I protest the FCC approval of almost 300 requests for new programs to be shown without closed captions.

The FCC weakened the closed captioning rules, and appears to have created new standards and new rules for permitting programs to be televised without closed captions. I believe the FCC violated the closed captioning rules.

People who are deaf or hard of hearing want access to televised information and entertainment, just like everyone else.

Closed captioning is an essential part of any televised program. Captioning is not too difficult or too expensive.

I cannot watch television programs that are not captioned.

Please reconsider these FCC decisions and support closed captioning.

Sincerely,

Derek Hodgson
26 Lema Ln
Palm Coast, FL 32137-9765

Docket No. 06-181

Kenneth L. Hill

From: hoersten@wt.net
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2006 11:08 AM
To: Kevin Martin; Michael Copps; Jonathan Adelstein; Deborah Tate; Robert McDowell; Monica Desai
Subject: Recent granting of captioning exemptions

FILED/ACCEPTED

Dear Chairman and Commissioners

OCT 19 2006

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

It is with great displeasure that I have to contact you. I am angry, outraged, upset and disappointed at the recent actions taken by the FCC. I have just learned that the FCC has made a decision to grant a large number of captioning exemptions. This was a terrible decision in a recent spate of negative decisions in favor of large and small companies and ignoring the needs of people with disabilities, who don't have the power to send programs that even the "smallest" broadcaster can send over the airwaves. That decision should not stand. It should be reversed immediately.

Craig Hoersten

—
This message has been scanned for viruses and dangerous content by MailScanner, and is believed to be clean.

Docket No. 06-181

Kenneth L. Hill

From: Jon Hong [jrhong1@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2006 6:48 PM
To: Monica Desai
Subject: In Re DA 06-1802, CGB-CC-0005 and CGB-CC-0007

FILED/ACCEPTED

OCT 19 2006

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

In Re DA 06-1802, CGB-CC-0005 and CGB-CC-0007

Dear FCC Chairman, I protest the recent Orders granting exemptions from closed captioning issued by CGB. These Orders appear to create a new regulation, carving out a new exemption basis, not in keeping with current regulations. We are outraged and believe the FCC has created a loophole that almost any entity crying "it costs too much" can now use. Please reconsider immediately! We need our closed captioning!

Jon Hong
807 W 16th St
Big Spring, TX 79720-4216

9/21/2006

Docket No

06-181

Kenneth L. Hill

From: Todd Higgins [toddh@sfsu.edu]
Sent: Thursday, August 17, 2006 12:22 AM
To: Monica Desai
Subject: Don't roll back on emergency captioning!

FILED/ACCEPTED

OCT 19 2006

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

August 16, 2006
Monica Desai

Dear Monica Desai,

I am writing to state that the FCC clarification of the emergency captioning requirements is wrong. All emergency information must be captioned with no exceptions; to do otherwise, you are placing my life in a jeopardy. As a Deaf individual, I must be aware of emergency situations such as a terror alert or impending natural disaster through captioning.

Therefore, I support the Application for Review of Clarification of Obligation of Video Programming Distributors to Make Emergency Information Accessible to Persons with Hearing Disabilities Using Closed Captioning, sent by seven national consumer organizations on August 14, 2006, CG-Docket # 05-231. I respectfully urge you to reconsider your request and continue your efforts in ensuring that emergency broadcasts are captioned for deaf and hard-of-hearing Americans.

Respectfully submitted,

*Todd Higgins
2370 Market Street
PMB 511
San Francisco, CA 94114-1575*

Docket No. 06-181

Kenneth L. Hill

From: Shane Feldman [feldman@nad.org]
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2006 7:22 PM
To: Monica Desai
Subject: Re: DA 06-1802, CGB-CC-0005 and CGB-CC-0007

FILED/ACCEPTED

September 20, 2006
Monica Desai

OCT 19 2006

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear Monica Desai,

I protest the FCC approval of almost 300 requests for new programs to be shown without closed captions.

The FCC weakened the closed captioning rules, and appears to have created new standards and new rules for permitting programs to be televised without closed captions. I believe the FCC violated the closed captioning rules.

People who are deaf or hard of hearing want access to televised information and entertainment, just like everyone else.

Closed captioning is an essential part of any televised program. Captioning is not too difficult or too expensive.

I cannot watch television programs that are not captioned.

Please reconsider these FCC decisions and support closed captioning.

Sincerely,

Shane Howard
814 Thayer Ave
Silver Spring, MD 20910-4500

Docket No. 06-181

Kenneth L. Hill

From: America Haileselassie [americahaileselassie@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2006 6:06 PM
To: Kevin Martin; Deborah Tate; Robert McDowell; Michael Copps; Jonathan Adelstein; Monica Desai
Subject: Bring Back Close Captioning!

In Re DA 06-1802, CGB-CC-0005 and CGB-CC-0007

FILED/ACCEPTED

OCT 19 2006

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear FCC Chairmen, I protest the recent Orders granting exemptions from closed captioning issued by CGB. These Orders appear to create a new regulation, carving out a new exemption basis, not in keeping with current regulations. We are outraged and believe the FCC has created a loophole that almost any entity crying "it costs too much" can now use. Please reconsider immediately! We need our closed captioning! We have the right to understand as deaf people what the programs are talking about.

America Y. Haileselassie
2898 summertree ave
Bettendorf, IA 52722
americahaileselassie@yahoo.com

9/21/2006

Docket No. 06-181

Pam Gregory

FILED/ACCEPTED

From: Sharon Harrison [shareliz72@verizon.net]**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2006 4:44 PM**To:** Kevin Martin; Deborah Tate; Robert McDowell; Michael Copps; Monica Desai

OCT 19 2006

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear FCC Chairman,

I protest the recent Orders granting exemptions from closed captioning issued by CGB. These Orders appear to create a new regulation, carving out a new exemption basis, not in keeping with current regulations. We are outraged and believe the FCC has created a loophole that almost any entity crying "it costs too much" can now use. Please reconsider immediately! We need our closed captioning!

Respectfully,

Sharon Harrison
719 Cummins Highway
Mattapan, MA 02126

9/19/2006

Docket No. 06-181

Pam Gregory

From: vhix@cabq.gov

Sent: Friday, September 15, 2006 5:08 PM

To: Deborah Tate; Robert McDowell; Michael Copps; Jonathan Adelstein; Monica Desai;
JFAgwen@aol.com; Kevin Martin

Subject: Closed Caption

FILED/ACCEPTED

OCT 19 2006

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear FCC Chairman,

I am writing to you in protest to the recent order regarding exception from closed captioning issued by CGB. These orders seem to create a new regulation, Not in keeping with the current regulations this is an outrageous. The FCC has created a loop hole that certain entities will be saying "It cost too much" to get out of having to deal with the death or hard of hearing people. Please reconsider these orders immediately! Closed caption is not an option for us, it is something we need to be able to function as other people do.

Thank You!

Viola Hix
Chairman, Paratransit Advisory Board
(505) 203-4060
vhix@cabq.gov

9/19/2006

Docket No. 06-181

Pam Gregory

~~FILED/ACCEPTED~~

From: Onthego321@aol.com
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2006 9:14 PM
To: Monica Desai
Subject: Re: Captioning Exemptions

OCT 19 2006

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Can you please tell me who at the FCC is granting exemptions to religious programs so they don't have to provide captioning? After waiting ten years for the captioning rule to take place, all of a sudden someone is granting exemptions without public comment. Does the FCC think that the Deaf Community doesn't need religion??? What else will they decide Deaf people don't need to know about on television? Please pass my comments on to the higher powers at the FCC who are able to make decisions for the Deaf Community on what programs will be captioned.

Tamara Hossler

(Hearing mother with a Deaf daughter who would like to know what is being said on television.)

9/19/2006

Pam Gregory

Docket No. 06-181

From: Mike Hahn [mhahn5866@charter.net]
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2006 2:28 PM
To: Monica Desai
Subject: Closed Captioning Exemptions

FILED/ACCEPTED

OCT 19 2006

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Dear FCC Bureau CGB Chief,

I protest the recent Orders granting exemptions from closed captioning issued by CGB. These Orders appear to create a new regulation, carving out a new exemption basis, not in keeping with current regulations. I am outraged and believe the FCC has created a loophole that almost any entity crying "it costs too much" can now use. Please reconsider immediately! We need our closed captioning!

Mike Hahn
2352 Montezuma Dr., Apt. A
Florissant, MO 63031

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No virus found in this outgoing message.

Checked by AVG Free Edition.

Version: 7.0.405 / Virus Database: 268.12.4/448 - Release Date: 9/14/2006

Docket No. 06-181

Pam Gregory

From: Monica Desai
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2006 10:06 AM
To: Pam Gregory
Subject: FW: FCC Captioning Exemptions

FILED/ACCEPTED

OCT 19 2006

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

*** Non-Public: For Internal Use Only ***

-----Original Message-----

From: LKH554@aol.com [mailto:LKH554@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2006 6:07 PM
To: Kevin Martin; Michael Copps; Jonathan Adelstein; Deborah Tate; Robert McDowell
Cc: Monica Desai
Subject: FCC Captioning Exemptions

September 13, 2006

To: Federal Communications Commission
Chairman Kevin Martin
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Commissioner Deborah Tate
Commissioner Robert McDowell

Dear Chairman and Commissioners:

I am angry, outraged, upset and disappointed at the recent actions taken by the FCC. I have just learned that the FCC has made a decision to grant a large number of captioning exemptions. This was a terrible decision in a recent spate of negative decisions in favor of large and small companies and ignoring the needs of people with disabilities, who don't have the power to send programs that even the "smallest" broadcaster can send over the airwaves. That decision should not stand. It should be reversed immediately.

I have watched and waited patiently as the FCC captioning rules slowly come into effect, bringing a few more captioned programs each year. I love old movies, so I'm thrilled each time a new one is shown with captions, and terribly disappointed when an old movie I remember seeing years ago, but can no longer hear is not captioned. Imagine watching "Sophie's Choice" with no sound (that has no captions). Imagine missing out on a favorite old film because they decided not to caption it. And even though they do caption some old movies, Turner Classic Movies does not caption the introduction to the movies, so I miss out on all those tidbits I'd love to hear. I keep waiting for that.

And, I miss out on the local DC Channel 8 because it's not captioned at all! How is that possible? Everything is supposed to be 100% captioned. But they can get away with it, so they do.

Now, the FCC has made it even easier for programmers to "get away with it", I just learned you extended Permanent Extensions to outfits that only requested a Temporary extension. Where's

9/19/2006

that at?? If a non profit has enough money to put audio on the program, how is it that they don't have enough to make it accessible? Let me tell you with a population of 30 million and growing, plus foreign speakers, it makes sense for everything to be captioned.

And you know, I have to say it really, really bugs me that the FCC doesn't seem to care anymore about captioning, yet, you are busy fining broadcasters for including a few "bad" words. I'd like to hear any words!!

I'm sorry to be so emotional, but you have no idea how much captioning has the power to include or exclude people. When I lost my hearing 24 years ago, the first thing I got was a closed captioned device, not because television is the most important thing in my life, but because it's the thing that connects me to the rest of the world. It can give me emergency information, let me know what's happening in the world or just let me relax a little.

Just this week I was reminded how grateful I was on 9/11 that the news stations captioned nonstop reports all day - remember how they didn't even run commercials? I lived in New York City at the time and it was my source of information. I was glued to the TV just to find out what was going on. If I had not had that, I'd have been lost.

So, when you issue these blanket exemptions to hundreds of companies, understand that it impacts real people. Real people who very much want to be part of the community they live and work in. Companies are in the business of watching their bottom line, so I understand that they want to ask for any exemptions they can. But Government should be in the business of watching out for the people they serve. Or what good is a government if it's only looking out for the big guys?

I urge you to rescind the recent captioning exemptions.

Sincerely,

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